

northern districts and in some parts of Wales, as map 10 shows. The regaining of this territory in more modern times can be seen in map 11 which illustrates the position in the early 1980's.

The ascent was a directional reversal of the decline, most difficulty being experienced in the spread to the north and, to a lesser extent, to the west.

It was thought that the Comma became retracted to Gloucester, Hereford, and Monmouth, at the middle of the 19th century — “considerably exceeding its earlier range” this century (Downes, 1948) — but none of this coincides with the facts. It was also said that the insect was restricted to Monmouthshire, Worcestershire, and Herefordshire, and that its “dispersal was primarily in a northern and north-eastern direction, afterwards mainly eastern and southern, the isolated records from Essex (1919) and Eastbourne (1924 and 1926) . . . not forming part of the main phenomenon” (Riley, 1929). In fact the butterfly had struck east into Cheshire by 1918, having been permanently established in the adjoining counties of north Wales and Shropshire, having previously spread into southern Somerset from the north; moreover, it was to be sixteen years before the boreal record was exceeded.

Over the first quarter century, the speed of recolonisation was consistent at four to six miles per annum — not as fast as might have been thought.

(to be continued)

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BRYOTROPHA SPECIES (LEP.: GELECHIIDAE) ON FLOWERS. — Referring to the note by R. J. Heckford (*antea*: 123), I have seen imagines of *Bryotropha terrella* (D. & S.) occasionally resting on flowers of a cultivated yellow *Achillea* in my garden during evenings in June and July. Also, I find *Scrobipalpa nitentella* (Fuchs) (Gelechiidae) resting frequently on flowers of *Tripleurospermum maritimum* (scentless chamomile) on fringes of a local saltmarsh on sunny evenings in July and August. H. N. MICHAELIS, 5 Glan-y-Mor, Glan Conwy, Colwyn Bay, LL28 5TA.

THE BLACKNECK (LYGEPHILA PASTINUM TREITS.) IN STAFFORDSHIRE. — On July 11th 1986 several moths of this species were found in the daytime along a disused railway line at Gnosall on the western border of Staffordshire. The only previous record for the county was of a single example in a moth trap in 1983. The line in question is being kept open as a footpath and bridleway and is proving of considerable interest for Lepidoptera. On June 19th 1985 I found *Homoeosoma sinuella* Fabr. which although a common species in the south was also new to Staffordshire. R. G. WARREN, Wood Rinding, 32 Whitmore Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8AP.